

1                                   **JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**  
2                                   **48th JACL National Convention**  
3                                   **National Council Meeting**  
4                                   **Washington, DC**  
5                                   **July 7, 2017**

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7                                   **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION**  
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9       This proposal could not have been submitted by the regular deadline because the notification of  
10       intent to file for National Historic Site status was not known until the announcement at the May  
11       20, 2017 Amache Pilgrimage Dinner by John Hopper, Amache Preservation Society founder.  
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14                   **A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN**  
15                   **CITIZENS LEAGUE RELATING TO THE AMACHE PRESERVATION SOCIETY'S**  
16                   **APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO DESIGNATE**  
17                   **THE AMACHE INCARCERATION CAMP AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**  
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19       **WHEREAS**, the Japanese American Citizens League is the oldest and largest Asian American  
20       civil rights organization with 101 chapters distributed among seven districts across the United  
21       States, dedicated to educating the public about the World War II Japanese American  
22       incarceration experience; and  
23

24       **WHEREAS**, the Japanese American Citizens League Education Committee completed six  
25       teacher training workshops across the United States, in 2015, on the historical background of the  
26       Japanese American incarceration during World War II, through a grant from the U.S.  
27       Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites grant  
28       program, which connected the Japanese American incarceration experience to current events and  
29       other communities, with workshops on discrimination, civil liberties and justice; and,  
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31       **WHEREAS**, the Granada Relocation Center, also known as the Amache Relocation Camp, was  
32       the smallest of 10 camps that housed Japanese Americans forcibly removed from the West Coast  
33       by the War Relocation Authority. The incarceration camp was only half complete when the first  
34       incarcerees began arriving from temporary detention centers in August 1942. Located in the  
35       southeastern corner of Colorado, near the town of Granada, Amache housed 7,597 evacuees,  
36       two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens; and,  
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38       **WHEREAS**, Manzanar and Minidoka Incarceration Camps are designated National Historic  
39       Sites and Tule Lake Incarceration Camp is part of the Tule Lake Unit of the WWII Valor in the  
40       Pacific National Monument; and,  
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42       **WHEREAS**, in 1983, the Denver Central Optimists Club placed a memorial in the Amache  
43       cemetery, listing the names of those 31 soldiers who died while serving in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental  
44       Combat Team, fighting for freedom and democracy; and,  
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46       **WHEREAS**, organized in 1993 by John Hopper, the Amache Preservation Society has

47 maintained the Amache Camp with support from the Granada School District, where the Camp  
48 has been added to the high school history curriculum. Mr. Hopper and his students helped  
49 procure historic designation and obtained grants to help restore a site that had been reduced to  
50 little more than the foundation outlines where barracks and mess halls and other structures used  
51 to stand; and

52  
53 **WHEREAS**, the Amache Preservation Society maintains a museum to display the many aspects  
54 of life in Amache Camp. The accompanying website hosts archival documents and provides  
55 general history about Amache and its preservation, as well as a location for updates about events,  
56 such as the yearly pilgrimage; and

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58 **WHEREAS**, the Granada Center, also known as Camp Amache, was listed on the National  
59 Register of Historic Places in 1994 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006; and

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61 **WHEREAS**, the Denver Central Optimists undertook to refurbish the Amache cemetery site on  
62 April 17-18, 2000 with the help from 294 youngsters from the Granada school system, teachers,  
63 and townspeople. Sod was laid and chain-link fencing put up around the sodded area; and

64  
65 **WHEREAS**, in 2007 the Friends of Amache (which consists of the Amache Historical Society,  
66 the Amache Club, the Amache Preservation Society, and the Town of Granada) and the National  
67 Park Service organized a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan and Conceptual Development Plan  
68 outlining the interpretive and educational goals of the Amache site<sup>1</sup>; and

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70 **WHEREAS**, the History Colorado Center has a permanent exhibit entitled, *Confined Citizens:*  
71 *The Amache-Granada Relocation Center, 1942–1945*; and

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73 **WHEREAS**, the Colorado State Archives maintains a site link to important primary documents  
74 related to Amache Incarceration Camp, including the correspondence of Governor Ralph Carr,  
75 whose strong support of the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans would ultimately cost  
76 him his political career; and

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78 **WHEREAS**, the University of Denver Amache Project is a community based project, under the  
79 auspices of Dr. Bonnie Clark, researching the tangible history of Amache, including intensive  
80 archaeological study of the camp. Results from that research, including photographs, newsletters,  
81 and a short documentary film, are available through the website <http://portfolio.du.edu/amache>;  
82 and

83  
84 **WHEREAS**, U.S. Senator Michael Bennett (D-Colorado) has toured the Amache Camp site on  
85 June 7, 2017 and agreed to support Senator Cory Gardner’s (R-Colorado) decision to sponsor the  
86 application process for National Historic Site designation pending Senator Gardner’s site visit  
87 scheduled for July 13, 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://coloradopreservation.org/projects/current-projects/granada-relocation-center/>

89 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the National Council of the Japanese  
90 **American Citizens League** that JACL supports efforts to designate Amache Incarceration Camp  
91 as a National Historic Site.

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96 **Sponsored by:** NCWNP District **Dated:** June 11, 2017  
97 (JACL entity) **Month/Day/Year**

98  
99 **Approved by:** Carol Kawase, District Governor  
100 **Name and Title (Please Print)**

101  
102

103 **Signed:** /s/

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106 **Please check one:**

107      **Fiscal Impact Statement attached**

108   X   **No Fiscal Impact** (meaning that the resolution does not call for any action that will be  
109 carried out by JACL staff, or incur any costs to JACL)

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112 *Note: The proposal must include signatures of three (3) delegates from (3) different districts*  
113 *not including that of the proponent:*

114 **Name:** David Kawamoto, Delegate  
115 (Please Print)

116  
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117 **District:** PSW **Chapter:** San Diego

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120 **Signed:** /s/

121 **Name:** Eileen Yamada-Lamphere, delegate  
122 (Please Print)

123  
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124 **District:** PNW **Chapter:** Puyallup Valley

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127 **Signed:** /s/

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**Name:**     **Ron Katsuyama, delegate**      
**(Please Print)**

**District:**     **MDC**    

**Chapter:**     **Dayton**    

**Signed:**           /s/          

**Name:**     **Roberta Barton, delegate**      
**(Please Print)**

**District:**     **CCDC**    

**Chapter:**     **Fresno**    

**Signed:**           /s/